

CONSTITUTION of DOUBLE OAK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Preamble

We declare and affirm these principles in the light of Holy Scripture to govern the body known as Double Oak Community Church in an orderly manner. These principles are intended to preserve and maintain the liberties of each individual church member as well as the freedom of action of this body in its relation to all other churches.

Article I – Name

This body shall be known as Double Oak Community Church, Inc. of The Town of Mt Laurel, Alabama. Double Oak Community Church (hereinafter may be referred to as Church) is organized and incorporated under the laws of the state of Alabama and maintains its legal and official address at: 115 Olmstead Street, Birmingham, AL 35242. Additionally, Double Oak Community Church physically operates from administrative offices located at 19 Olmstead Street, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Article II – Purpose

Double Oak Community Church exists to glorify God by being a worshipping, working, and witnessing family of faith. The Church meets regularly for worship services and community groups on multiple campuses. The Church is to be the physical representation of Christ on earth.

Article III – Our Three Core Values

Double Oak Community Church has three core values that lie at the center of what we believe, who we are, and what we do. We believe these core values are essential for genuine, from the heart, life-change. As we embrace these values, we move from a “lip service” religion to a biblically based, “life-style” faith.

1. **Maturity:** Jesus Christ saved us so that we might become like Him. All of our activities are crafted to help us grow up in that lifelong process of achieving spiritual maturity.
2. **Community:** Church is not a building. We together are the Church. Building transparent spiritual relationships with other growing believers creates a true spiritual community.
3. **Charity:** Christ commands us to love one another and to love our neighbors. Locally, nationally, and globally we seek to share the love of Christ through our acts of spiritual charity.

Article IV – Our Doctrinal Beliefs

The Bible

(2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 3:7, 4:12)

We believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and is to be interpreted by the literal method, where the rules of grammar, literature, history, and culture are consistently applied. In this way, we can accurately understand the author's meaning and properly apply the biblical principles. We believe that the Scriptures in all 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired as God's revelation to man, error free in the original manuscripts, and function as the supreme authority of faith and practice for all followers of Christ. In the Bible God has made known to man that which He wanted man to know.

God

(Deuteronomy 6:4; Romans 1:20; Psalm 135:5-6; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:18-19;
2 Corinthians 13:14; Job 42:2)

We believe there is one living and true God, who is one in essence, while eternally existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Man

(Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 1:18-32, 3:10-23; 1 Thessalonians 5:3; Hebrews 9:27)

We believe that mankind was directly created in the image of God to enjoy His fellowship forever and fulfill His purposes on earth. However, in Adam, all mankind fell into sin. Consequently, all people will die physically and are also now spiritually dead apart from faith in Jesus Christ.

Salvation

(John 1:12, 3:16, 14:6, 17:24; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1; 1 Peter 3:18)

We believe that salvation is by grace alone as a gift from God, through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. All who believe in Him are declared righteous by the Father on the grounds of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection, being regenerated by and baptized in the Holy Spirit. Christ's life, death, and resurrection covers all of a believer's sins - past and future.

The Church

(Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Colossians 1:18, 24;
Ephesians 2:20; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

We believe that all who are "born again" by the Holy Spirit as true followers of Christ belong to the one true church and are instructed by the Scriptures to associate themselves in local, visible churches. Since Christ ascended into heaven, the church, the Bride of Christ, is to be the physical representation of Christ on earth. Only spiritually mature believers are to be given high positions of leadership in local churches.

Ordinances

(Matt. 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

We believe that Scriptures identify two Ordinances for churches to observe – believer’s Baptism and The Lord’s Supper. We believe that baptism is an essential “first step” for all who, having believed in Christ for salvation, desire to walk as His disciples. Baptism is a clear injunction of the Scriptures and outwardly expresses the inward reality of new life in Christ. Our method of believer’s baptism is immersion upon conversion as described in the New Testament and practiced in the early church.

We believe that The Lord’s Supper is a memorial commemoration of Christ and His redemptive death. Observing the meal is also an expression of our fellowship in local churches with one another. In communion we are reminded of Christ’s first coming and encouraged to look forward to His coming again.

Future Things

(Matthew 16:27, 24-25; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;
Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 20:2)

We believe the next great event of human history will be the personal return of Jesus Christ. This is the blessed hope for which all those who love Christ yearn. While the exact time of Christ’s return is unknown, we believe His return is both imminent and certain. We believe that Jesus Christ will return to earth a second time to rule, judge, and reign.

Article V – Statement of Faith

As originally given, the Holy Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. We believe that the Scriptures in all 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired as God’s revelation to man, error free in the original manuscripts, and function as the supreme authority of faith and practice for all followers of Christ. The established and recognized ordinances of the Church are believer’s Baptism and observance of The Lord’s Supper.

Article VI – Relationships

Double Oak Community Church is Christ ruled, Elder led, and congregationally accountable, with its governance vested in its members and administered by the Board of Elders and the pastoral staff. The Church is an autonomous body subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. In selected outreach endeavors, the Church will cooperate with other like-minded churches and organizations to carry out and enhance our ministry objectives.

Article VII – Church Covenant

We, the members of Double Oak Community Church, The Town of Mount Laurel, Alabama, having been led as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, enter into a covenant with each other, as one body in Christ. We agree, by the help of the Holy Spirit and with the Bible, the inspired Word of God as our guide, to do the following actions:

1. Walk together in Christian love
2. Strive for the advancement of this church
3. Promote spirituality among the members
4. Sustain worship, discipline, and doctrine
5. Develop and attend Community Groups for fellowship and spiritual growth
6. Observe the church ordinances of believer's Baptism and The Lord's Supper as authorized by our church
7. Contribute cheerfully and regularly God's tithes and our offerings to support the ministry of our church
8. Cooperate with other like-minded churches and organizations in selected outreach endeavors to carry out and enhance our ministry objectives and to spread the gospel to all nations.

Furthermore, as individual members of Double Oak Community Church, we covenant to do the following additional activities:

1. Encourage personal and family devotions
2. Educate our children according to our faith
3. Seek the salvation of unbelievers with whom we come in contact
4. Be just in our dealings, reliable in our responsibilities, and an example to those around us
5. Abstain from practices that are knowingly harmful to our bodies, which are the temples of God
6. Use our influence to combat harmful practices by others
7. Work untiringly for the advancement of the kingdom of our Savior by witnessing in words and actions
8. Walk in Christian harmony and watchfulness, giving and receiving assistance with meekness and affection
9. Pray for one another and help each other in sickness and sorrow
10. Be slow to anger, always being eager for reconciliation and seeking it without delay.

We further agree that, in the event we move from this area, we will as soon as possible unite with another church of like faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article VIII – Adoption

Section 1 – This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at the Church Conference at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This vote shall be taken not less than 30 days after formal presentation in writing of the Constitution to the Church.

Section 2 – When adopted, this Constitution abolishes, supersedes, and takes the place of any Constitution, rules, and bylaws and amendments that preceded it.

Section 3 – A copy of this Constitution shall at all times be kept with the records of the Church Clerk and in the Church office, and any amendment to or revisions thereof shall, after passage, be prepared in typewritten form by the Church Clerk, showing the date of adoption, and attached to the copies of the Constitution so kept. This provision is also to apply to any resolution passed for the permanent or temporary government of the Church.

The structure and responsibilities of all committees and ministry teams will be developed and voted on by the Church and shall be reflected in the Bylaws as adopted by the Church.

Article IX – Amendments

This Constitution may be amended or changed if two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at the Church Conference to which the amendments or changes are proposed for adoption or change shall vote in favor of adoption of the proposal; provided, however, that the proposed amendments or changes shall have been presented in writing at a previous Church Conference at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Church Conference at which the vote for approval of the proposal is taken.

Article X – History of Adoption and Changes

The following table shows the history of initial adoption of this Constitution and any subsequent changes that have been made and adopted for this Constitution.

Date Adopted:	Description of Change
xxx, 2018	<i>The original version of this Constitution was adopted by Double Oak Community Church at its regular Church Conference.</i>